From: Tony Stirk-Iron Horse

To: Microsoft ATR

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Subject: Microsoft settlement

Once again, to those of us in the industry, we see the USDOJ "losing" what we view as a slam dunk case against a flagrant violator of the law. Microsoft beat you once before even when they had a motto that "DOS ain't done until Lotus won't run." Their bundling agreements and licensing agreements are clearly anticompetetive. Their current actions show that they don't fear repeating their actions. While antitrust law may not allow for penalties that the industry would see as reasonable, perhaps RICO or some other law would. And, with the power of UCITA and the DMCA, the software industry's sway with lawmakers, and these wins in court, we in the industry expect stronger software companies to use their marketing and legal powers to the detriment of customers, consultants, and analysts. The decision to bargain with Microsoft after even a pitiful win has many of us questioning why the government would pursue Microsoft for so little gain. We have lost confidence in the USDOJ to protect us from the people who run the Microsoft's of the world.

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